

Application No. 10/658,723

Attorney Docket No. 133282UL (14768US01)

**REMARKS**

The present application includes claims 1-20. Claims 1-18 and 20 were rejected. Claim 19 was objected to. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 10-12, and 14-20 have been amended, claims 2 and 5-9 have been cancelled, and new claims 21-32 have been added.

Claims 1-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Simpson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,676,606).

Claim 19 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 1-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Simpson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,676,606). Simpson relates to ultrasonic diagnostic micro-vascular imaging. More particularly, Simpson states that "processed echo and flow signals are coupled to an image processor 30 where they are scan converted into the desired image format and displayed on a display 40 either separately or combined" (col. 2, lines 26-29). Scan conversion of processed echo and flow signals does not generate compounded images. Therefore, Simpson does not teach generation or display of compounded images.

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Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended to recite generation and display of a compounded image. As described above, Simpson does not teach generation or display of a compounded image, as recited in amended claims 1, 14, and 15. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 14, and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, claims 2-12, 16-18, and 20 depend from independent claims 1 or 15. As described above, independent claims 1, 14, and 15 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 5-9 have been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 3-4, 10-12, 16-18, and 20 are also in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the objection to claim 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 19 depends from independent claim 15. As described above, independent claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 19 is also in condition for allowance.

New claims 21-32 have been added.

New claims 21-31 depend from independent claims 1 or 14. As described above, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has been overcome and independent claims 1 and 14 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that new dependent claims 21-31 are also in condition for allowance.

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New claim 32 recites generation and display of a compounded image. As described above, Simpson does not teach generation or display of a compounded image, as recited in claim 32. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-4, 10-12, and 14-32 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants amended the claims of the present application in an effort to advance prosecution, but reserve the right to further argue the original claims or variants thereof in the present application or any extensions thereof.

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**CONCLUSION**

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicants at the telephone number noted below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of GTC, Account No. 070845.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 2, 2007

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